

**Washington State Patrol  
Media Release**

**Chief John R. Batiste**



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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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**State Patrol Holiday Emphasis Underway Statewide**

As we head into two key holiday weekends, Washington State Patrol troopers will be conducting holiday emphasis patrols statewide. Troopers will focus their efforts on enforcing traffic laws related to speeding, aggressive driving, seatbelt usage and drug and alcohol impaired drivers this holiday season.

"We know this is a time a year when many people get together to celebrate during the holidays. Unfortunately, impaired drivers all too often turn the celebration to tragedy" said Washington State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste. "Our Troopers are dedicated to reducing the number of collisions and fatalities caused by impaired drivers."

To emphasize the importance of keeping our highway safe during this holiday season, Batiste and his command staff will join line troopers patrolling Washington highways.

"I will be out there on the highways with my troopers helping to ensure drivers get home safely. We will do this by strictly enforcing laws related to speed and DUI," said Batiste.

Reducing the number of DUI related collisions is a top priority for the WSP. While impaired drivers are a relatively small proportion of those on the road, they cause more than 25% of the fatal collisions. The WSP has dedicated itself to finding those individuals before they injure or kill. So far this year, troopers have made approximately 17,096 impaired driving arrests, removing these dangerous drivers from the road.

Troopers would like to remind everyone to refrain from drinking and driving and to use designated drivers, taxis, and other alternatives in order to get home safely.

Anyone who witnesses an impaired or dangerous driver is strongly encouraged to call 9-1-1 and report the incident immediately.

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